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Official Call Fifteenth National Irrigation Congress.

An advance copy of the official call of the Fifteenth National Irrigation Congress has been received by the MINER. It is issued from the headquarters of the Congress at Sacramento, California, and announces that this important convention will be held in that city September 2-7 inclusive next. The document recites the purposes of the Congress, invites the appointment of delegates by organized bodies of all kinds, and announces special railway rates over all railway lines to California. An Interstate Irrigation and Forestry Exposition, the California State Fair and special harvest excursions over California are among the entertainment features promised those who attend.

The purposes of the Congress are declared to be "Save the forests, store the floods, reclaim the deserts, make homes on the land," and all who are interested in these objects or in any of them are invited to participate in the deliberations and thereby contribute to a wise direction of National policies and development of practical methods of conserving and developing the great natural resources of the country.

The personnel of the Congress, as stated in the Call, includes the President and Vice-President of the United States, Members of the Cabinet, Senators and Representatives, Governors of State and Territories, Members of State and Territorial Legislatures and State Irrigation, Forestry and other Commissions. Delegates may be appointed by governors of states and territories, mayors of cities, county governing boards, official and unofficial public bodies, and organizations of every kind including agricultural, horticultural and commercial, as well as Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce and Development Associations.

The Interstate Exposition of Irrigated-land Products and Forest Products will be held simultaneously with the Irrigation Congress. The largest and finest list of trophies and prizes ever offered, will stimulate competition. The California State Fair will follow the Congress with joint opening and closing ceremonies attended by a great Irrigation celebration, the day closing with a magnificent allegorical Irrigation parade and electrical illuminations.

Especially emphasis is laid upon the opportunity afforded by this Congress for the study of Irrigation, Irrigation practices and results, irrigated crops of every kind and irrigation opportunities. Sacramento is situated near the center of the great valley of California which extends lengthwise through the state a distance of nearly five hundred miles and comprises approximately nearly ten million acres of fertile land. Colossal plans for the construction of storage dams, and distributing canals for the irrigation of this great plain are now being made by engineers of the Reclamation Service and money has been apportioned from the Reclamation Fund for the construction of an initial unit of the great system contemplated.

Special excursions will enable delegates to see California. These will cover the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, the mountains, the copper belt, the vintage districts, the redwoods, seacoast and mountain resorts, orange and lemon districts and irrigated districts.

Last week a sample sack of copper ore was brought to the office of the Hub Mining Investment company which is remarkable because of the fact that it is richer than any other ore in this region taken from the surface croppings of a large ore body in place, and because it was discovered on unlocated ground which has been passed over by hundreds of prospectors during the past thirty years, and because it is in 200 yards of a good wagon road, over which the ore can be hauled to the copper smelter at Benson, with a distance of twelve miles, or loaded on cars at the same point and shipped to other smelters over two different railway systems,

says the Benson Press. The ore ledge is six feet wide, and the samples brought in are said to fairly represent the entire width of the ore body. They consist of quartz blocks and boulders with thick veins of reddish brown metal all through the bright green rock. The brown veins are not decomposed, and constitute between one-third and one-fourth of the weight of samples brought in. Those metallic veins are thought to be bornite, which consists of 56 per cent copper, 17 per cent iron and 27 per cent sulphur, constituting desirable ore for smelting. Miners are now engaged in quarrying out ore from the new find, and shipments will begin in the near future providing samples which have been sent to the smelter bring satisfactory returns. Three claims have been located at the place of discovery. The name of the discoverer is for some reason withheld from the public, as is also the direction from Benson where the remarkable discovery is situated.

Pinal Find Was Long Sought.

Chas. E. Brown, one of the discoverers of the rich Troy gold field, in Pinal county, was a visitor at the Blade sanctum Monday, and exhibited to us a fine collection of gold nuggets he had taken from his properties. Some of these nuggets are worth 50¢. He found one nugget which sold for 107¢. This gold is not the ordinary placer gold found in gravel bars, but is vein gold that has not traveled far from the veins. It has simply been freed by disintegration of the croppings in which it had been formed and rolled down and lodged among the adjacent boulders and debris. Two of the blind leads from which it came have been discovered within the boundaries of the C. E. Brown and the John Kavanaugh claims. The Brown vein has two pay streaks, one bedded on quartzite and the other on slate. They are small but the ore is nearly half gold, lying in sheets one-fourth of an inch thick and in large nuggets. Mr. Brown has extracted 2,100¢ worth of gold from his claims since he discovered and located them.

There is every reason to believe that one of the great gold camps of the west will be established in this rich Troy gold field in the immediate future. Ten foot shafts, sunk for location work are the deepest openings yet made in the field, but development work will be pushed from this date on and there is hardly a doubt that the quartz strata, so marvelously rich in gold at their surface, will lead to large bonanzas. The rich gold quartz shown us by Mr. Brown is identical in color, texture, richness and general character to that found in the same vicinity by a soldier over thirty-five years ago and for which Charlie Brown of Tucson has been searching at odd times for thirty years past. A company of soldiers was riding over the old government trail, from old camp Grant, on the San Pedro, to the Pinal ranch, situated in the lap of the Pinal range about eight miles from the old Silver King mine, this county. Somewhere in the vicinity of Steamboat Springs, the location of the Troy gold discovery, one of the troopers fell out of line and did not join the troop again until it had reached the Pima ranch. When reprimanded by the lieutenant in command for lagging behind the company in a section where hostile Apaches were numerous he exhibited to the astonished officer chunks of quartz that were more than half gold. The lieutenant became excited and tried to induce the trooper to return with him and an escort to the location of the discovery, but the soldier refused, saying he would wait till his term of service expired then return and locate the ground for himself. His company was ordered to the Dakotas and he did not live to return. Charlie Brown, of Tucson, was there at that time and procured specimens of the ore from the soldier.—Florence Blade.

Two Good Groups Sold.

One of the biggest deals that has been consummated in this section lately is that of the remaining properties belonging to Dr. O. L. Geer, of

Congress Junction. The properties consist of about 40 claims situated in the Harqua Hala and Harecuvar mountains. The Indian Queen group is situated in the Harqua Hala mountains in Maricopa county, and the Golden Rule group is in the Harecuvar in Yuma county and all are in Squaw Gulch, about three miles from the railroad. This is a very large low grade proposition with high grade streaks. Dr. Geer has held this property for seven years or more and has been working it every year, but has never until lately realized the magnitude of the body of low grade ore on the property. He devoted his attention to the high grade streaks.

There is on the property a ledge of white quartz that runs about 4¢ per ton clear across the surface. This and other similar ledges have been passed over as worthless for years, and it was a matter of surprise to the owners of the property that the dead looking white quartz was valuable. The same people who have taken over the other Geer property at Golden Gulch have taken this, and it is expected that big things will be doing in that section soon.—Wickenburg Miner.

How the National Forests Serve the Public.

The Use of the National Forests, a publication just printed by the department of Agriculture, is a brief, clear manual for public information as to the forest policy of the National Government.

It is too true, as the short preface to the public says, that "many people do not know what National Forests are. Others may have heard much about them, but have no idea of their true purpose and use." It is the object of this publication to explain just what the National Forests mean, what they are for, and how to use them.

In the first place, it is explained how the Forests are created and how their boundaries are drawn. Next, their direct use and value are shown from the point of view of the homeseeker, the prospector and miner, the user of timber, the user of the range, the user of water, and other users of Forest resources. Third, it is shown how the Forests are intended for use, for the production of usable products, and for the establishment and maintenance of homes; how on all of them the timber is protected from fire, the water flow is kept steady, the forage on the range is increased and guarded from abuse; and how, in addition, they serve as great public playgrounds and as breeding places and refuges for game. Finally, the management of the National Forests is described.

Here it is that the great usefulness of the Forests is brought out most clearly and strikingly: for the Forests are managed by the people in their own interests, and every means is used to meet the desires and wants of all Forest users half way by dealing with them in the main directly on the ground and in all cases with the utmost practicable dispatch and freedom from red tape.

In a word, the special interest of this manual lies in its showing that the Forest policy of the Government, both in principle and in practice, is for the benefit of the ordinary man, for the benefit of every citizen equally. There is still a tendency to think of the National Forests as "preserves" closed to use, and to leave the public lands exposed to unregulated individual exploitation. Where these misapprehensions still prevail "The Use of the National Forests" will go far to correct them.

The book is written by Mr. Frederick E. Olmsted, whose intimate knowledge of conditions in the West and the policy under which the National Forests are managed especially fits him to deal with the subject.

Black Hawk's Fine Works.

When fully installed the plant of the Black Hawk Consolidated Mining Co. of Eldorado Canyon will easily be the finest in that district and it will be second to few, if any, in the Searchlight field. The hoist is now in operation and drifting is in progress in both

directions on the 200-ft. level, just above water. The placing of the hoist in position was a herculean task. A dead weight of over 10 tons, it had to be elevated 200 feet up a 22 per cent incline. At first it was essayed with horses but without success. Then blocks and tackle were employed and the monster was finally safely landed on its foundation.

In addition to the engine base the floor is also of cement, giving the engine room a very neat and substantial appearance. Here, too, is a 10x10 compressor operating four drills. These drills are working fine, and the so-called hard rock is fairly eaten up. A timing of the drills showed them to be making an inch and a-half per minute. Progress on the mill consists of the framing of the heavy timbers and also of the construction of the building.—Searchlight Bulletin.

A New Era for the Klondike.

It will not be long before the Guggenheim Exploration company shall be actively dredging its vast placer ground in the Yukon. Then will the day of the individual miner on the creeks in the vicinity of Dawson be shortened, for how can he expect to compete with an electric dredge, which, although it may be operated by only 13 men, can handle 3,000 cubic yards of earth per 24 hours at an approximate cost of 100¢ per day? To be sure, there will result a marked change in the economical condition of the Klondike country proper, and it will not be surprising to learn that the prospector and miner will have to seek new fields where he may hope again to rehabilitate his fortune.

There is no doubt that the commissioners of the Guggenheim firm have done some close bargaining to obtain control of the rich placer ground on Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker and other creeks, for it will cost enormous sums of money to equip the properties and dredge sufficient ground to yield an equitable return on the investment. It may be taken as certain, also, that the deal with the individual mine owners has been so adjusted financially that the risk is not wholly the company's. By this statement is meant that the sellers of the placer ground have received far less than they asked, and it may be true that the highest cash offer of the agents of the Guggenheims for the best property was only 50,000¢. However, many miners preferred to sell at a discount rather than take the chance of losing in the end.

To earn 5,000¢, 10,000 or 25,000¢ in cold cash immediately, has probably induced a number of mine owners to sell, for they realize that it would take a long time and hard work with much expense to clean up even one-half the money paid them for their undeveloped properties. In a few instances miners have struck it rich with pick and shovel or hydraulic giant during several months' work, but the majority have probably only made living wages. Ordinary labor costs 4¢ per day and board, and skilled mechanics earn from 5¢ to 7¢ and board, the board being estimated at 2¢ per day.

That there is gold in the Yukon is proved by the fact that the output has increased from 300,000¢ in 1896 to 22,275,000¢ in 1900, declining yearly to 5,357,739¢ in 1906. For the 11 years, from 1896 to 1906, the production totaled 112,864,363¢.—Mining World.

Idaho Copper Mine a Wonder.

"The Weimer copper proposition up in Idaho is certainly the biggest prospect I ever saw," is the comment of J. L. Burch, who has just returned to the city after inspecting the property. "I should regard the Valley View tunnel as a great mine in itself. It has a full face of ore which they are breaking down and sacking and it runs better than 20 per cent copper. But the extent of the ore deposits there as indicated by surface showings, is almost beyond comprehension. The Weimer company's ground covers eight miles of the contact along that mountain range. In dozens of places are open cuts and small workings and all of them are in shipping ore—the stuff that runs 15 per cent and better in

copper. The indications are the same along the eight miles of contact and there is no reason why the ore occurrences should not be virtually the same.

"The company has been working only eight or nine months; it has had roads to build, buildings to construct and all the other things to do to get ready to mine, and yet, with a haul of fifty miles to railroad to contend with, it has shipped fifteen carloads of ore, the returns from which have a little more than paid expenses. And it has not yet a good start at real mining. It has quarried some and has several small workings, but owing to the fact that the work has been done with the idea of making shipments pay expenses from the start, little has been done on the line of development that would be laid down by the average practical mining man bent upon opening a great mine and with plenty of capital behind him to do the work. However, so long as the work is all in ore this is perhaps no disadvantage; some mining men contend that the line pursued will prove the quickest way of sizing up the resources.

"From what I saw of the Weimer property and its surroundings, I should think that particular section affords unusual opportunities for the poor man to make a mine, for the ore literally sticks out of the ground."—Salt Lake Republican.

Nevada Mine Claimed by Fire.

A Tonapah dispatch of July 2 says: The extensive plant of the Hannaph mine, located about 23 miles from here, was entirely destroyed by fire this afternoon. The principal owners of the mine are Samuel Newhouse of Salt Lake, and A. J. Battles. The news was brought into camp by two of the workmen of the mine, who tramped all the way across the desert. The fire consumed the hoist, the blacksmith shop, the bunkhouse and all the outbuildings, and descended into the shaft, burning downward at a fierce rate. The underground workings were extensively and expensively equipped with the finest kind of machinery, and the extent of the damage to this equipment can only be conjectured. To extinguish the flames in the shaft it was necessary to flood the underground workings, and this in itself means a big loss to the owners. So far as the messengers were aware, no men were caught below or hurt in any manner.

The largest high-pressure pump in the world is said to be installed in the Dry Diggings placer district in southern Oregon, on Rogue river, and is used to operate a battery of hydraulic monitors. This pump is one of the largest pieces of mining machinery ever manufactured, and could never have been installed but for the fact that it was unloaded directly from the cars to the foundation prepared for it at the mines. The pump was built by the Byron Jackson Machine Works of San Francisco, and was one of the last big installations executed by this company before the earthquake-fire. It is of the five-step centrifugal type, and weighs, aside from bearings and gears, just 70,000 lb. Other pumps have been built that lift as great a volume of water, but they do not deliver it under such enormous pressure as this one. The pump is tested to withstand a maximum pressure of 250 lb. per square inch. It has a capacity of 13,000,000 gal. per 24 hours, or 9,000 gal. per min. This enormous volume is delivered through a half-mile of steel pipe, of 23 in. in diameter. The water is lifted to a height of 100 ft. and forced through two four-inch nozzles, hurling streams a distance of 500 ft. These powerful streams play upon a high bank of gold-bearing gravel.—M. & S. Press

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